Title: Need to set up a Central Monitoring Agency for 'National Food for Work Programme' in the country.-Laid.

DR. K. DHANARAJU (TINDIVANAM): *Sir, The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is a first step towards the long term commitment to an employment guarantee programme. It was launched in the month of November 2004, open to all rural poor in 150 identified Most Backward districts of the country.

Rupees 2020 crores and 20 lakh tonnes of food grains have been allocated for the financial year 2004-05 and Rs. 5400 crores for the year 2005-06. In view of the huge allocation of fund it is of great public importance to closely monitor this 100% Centrally sponsored scheme.

My constituency district Villupuram is one among the four districts identified in Tamil Nadu implementing this NFFWP programme. It is observed that this programme is being implemented in a hurry with our adhering to the norms of operationalisation, thereby defeating the purpose of generating supplementary wage employment with food security. Particularly, in Villupuram district the works are carried out by employing oral contractual labours.

Sir, I urge upon the Central Government machinery especially the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to appoint immediately agencies for 100% verification of the works and test check of the quality of work as per the rules.

Though lunched in November, 2004, this programme has been just started actually in the month of February 2005 after the receipt of initial allocation. Therefore, the condition to show the performance of 60% expenditure to qualify for first installation in the year 2005-2006 be relaxed for want of required minimum 100 days work.

* Laid on the Table .